

Home Group Leader's Notes
January 27, 2019

SHARE IT

What is the closest you have come to sudden peril? What caused it? (E.g. weather) How did you respond?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Our focus this week will be on believing that Jesus is with us throughout the storms of life.

This opportunity to share is to reflect on the fact we all face storms that our natural human condition will respond with fear and anxiety, but that we can trust Jesus who is in the boat with us.

LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

A central theme in *The book of Mark* is this question: 'Who is Jesus?'

What had the disciples observed Jesus do or command in the following verses?

NOTES TO LEADERS: You will notice that by the time of this week's story, the disciples had seen many miracles and heard the commands to trust in Him.

1:15

1:22-26

1:32-38

2:5, 8-11

2:14

2:28

4:10, 11

Read Mark 4:35-41. How was this miracle different from others that the disciples had seen?

NOTES TO LEADERS: In this case, it was the disciples who were in peril. This became both personal and urgent. In addition, this was not limited to a person but was great in scope and size.

What was the nature of the disciple's question in verse 38? How did Jesus answer?

NOTES TO LEADERS: They knew that Jesus could do miracles. However, that He was sleeping made him seem as though he didn't care or that He was powerless.

What was the point of Jesus' question in verse 40? How is this connected with what he previously revealed and taught?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Fear and faith and always connected. Jesus point was that their faith should have been greater since (1) they had already seen that He could do things that only God can do, (2) they knew that He cared, (3) they weren't actually dying – only challenged, and (4) fear should call them to faith.

How is Jesus' question in verse 40 still significant and relevant to our lives?

NOTES TO LEADERS: We are all faced with challenge, opposition, and even peril. Jesus has revealed that He loves us, He is all-powerful, He has a master plan, and that He allows tests to help us grow in faith and glorify Him.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What kinds of things feel like a 'storm' in your life? How might you respond? Why might Jesus have used this moment in this way in our story? How are fear and faith related?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This discussion leads to the idea that God knows, cares, and uses these moments to teach us / inspire us to faith in Him.

On Sunday, we heard, "Being still isn't due to the absence of the storm, but understanding who's in your boat." (Rick Langer) What helps you gain "understanding" and "faith?" (v. 40)

NOTES TO LEADERS: The focus on this discussion is how we gain understanding and faith. This could be a time to share the storms through which Jesus taught us faith - especially focusing on His presence, His power, and His plans.

How can we help each other "understand who's in the boat" with us and grow in faith?

NOTES TO LEADERS: It is so easy for us to try to weather the storm alone. This was never God's plan. The disciples were together. We are supposed to remember that we are together trusting in Jesus. God made us to live as "one" - to rejoice together and to mourn together. We need to move beyond our American independence to God dependence together.

**Praying for His wisdom and power to work in and through you,
Steve**